



Tempe Art in Private Development



All State Commerce Center

1025 E. Broadway Avenue

Mark Bayless

Ancient Presence, 1996

Steel and stone

Artist Webpage:

www.websiteink.com/petro/

Photo: Craig Smith

Description: *Ancient Presence*, an assemblage of metal sculptures and monolithic stones by artist Mark Bayless, makes a striking presentation in front of the All State Commerce Center. The petroglyph-inspired designs include stylized Desert Bighorn Sheep and human forms cut from sheet steel atop monolithic stones etched with petroglyph symbols. The stones were gathered from deserts of the southwest and possess a natural occurring 'desert varnish'. The juxtaposition of the metal sculptures with the stone monoliths create a sense of emergence to the installation and a contemporary feeling to an ancient art form. The artist sought to bridge the gap between those ancient ones about whom we know so little and our modern times, reminding us of our link to the past and our obligation to preserve and protect the unique artistic legacies of our native ancestors.

Artist biography: Since the 1970s, Mark Bayless has pursued his interest in the arts while working full-time in numerous occupations, obtaining a college degree, creating and displaying his art and rearing a family. His professional background includes architectural design, building construction, stained glass studio owner, interior designer, artist and environmental consultant. In the field of art, Bayless has worked in several mediums, including stained glass, painting, print making, ceramics, wood carving, wood sculpture and stone and steel sculpture. His work has been displayed in more than 25 art galleries and shops in Washington, California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona. Bayless is self-employed as an environmental consultant and artist. He works on private commissions and also sells his artwork in gift stores and galleries.

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